

MOBILE IP EXTENSIONS RATIONALIZATION (MIER)**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

5 A new extensions structure for mobile IP control message extensions is
employed to conserve the type field. Certain types of extensions, such as network
access identifiers, are initially aggregated and sub-types are employed to identify the
precise content of the extension (e.g., mobile node network access identifier, home
agent network access identifier, foreign agent network access identifier, etc.). Long
10 and short formats for the new extension structure are defined, with the long format
applicable to nonskippable extensions carrying more than 256 bytes and the short
format backwards compatible with currently defined skippable extensions with less
than 256 bytes of data. This will greatly reduce usage of the type field.